

Samira's Awful Lunch

Author: Bharati Jagannathan
Illustrator: Preeti Krishnamurthy

PRATHAM BOOKS
A Book in Every Child's Hand

Level 2





Samira made a face when she opened her tiffin box and thought, ‘Who wants to eat parathas and brinjal curry? Not I.’

Last week Amma had given her noodles with capsicum and carrots. “The noodles are squiggly and they look like worms,” she said when she went back home.



"I don't like noodles."

The next day, Amma made upma with peanuts and peas, but Samira ate only the peanuts in it and took the rest back home.

"It was like wet sand," she said when Amma asked her why she hadn't eaten it.



“Shall I give you idlis?” asked Amma. “Oh, yes ! They would be lovely to play with. I can toss and catch them. But I will not eat them—idlis taste like mud.” So now there were parathas and brinjal curry. Ugh, ugh, ugh!



Shutting her tiffin box with a bang, Samira went to the school courtyard. A row of ants crawling along the wall said, “Samira, why aren’t you eating your lunch like all the other children?” Samira said, “I don’t like parathas. I don’t like vegetables. I don’t want any lunch.”



“Of course, one cannot eat vegetables,” the ants agreed. They offered her the wing of a cockroach that they were carefully carrying and said, “Now try this, it is really delicious.”

“Oh no! I don’t want any horrible cockroaches,” said Samira and ran away to the garden.



Colourful flowers were blooming in the garden and butterflies were flitting from one to the other.

An orange butterfly with black checks and stripes said, “Hello Samira! Why aren’t you eating your lunch like all the other children?”



Samira said, “I don’t like parathas. I don’t like vegetables. I don’t want any lunch.”

“Of course, one cannot eat vegetables,” the butterfly agreed.
“Why don’t you drink some nectar from the flowers like us? It is really delicious.”



Samira put her tongue into the centre of a flower but could find nothing!

“I don’t want any nectar. And I think you are fooling me,” she cried. She ran to the big pipal tree in the lawn.



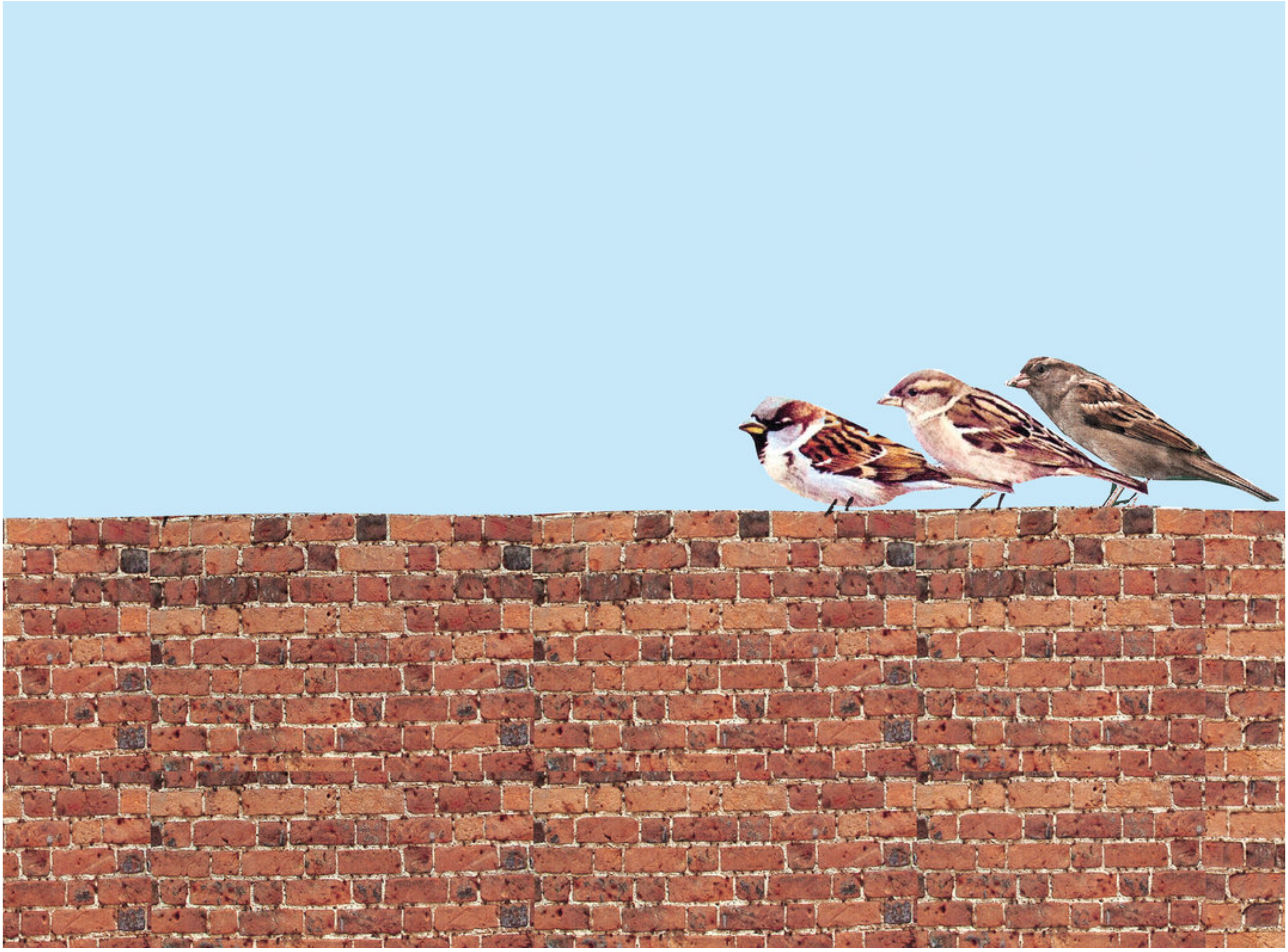
A crow cawing above called, “Hello Samira! Why aren’t you eating your lunch like all the other children?”

Samira said, “I don’t like parathas. I don’t like vegetables. I don’t want any lunch.”



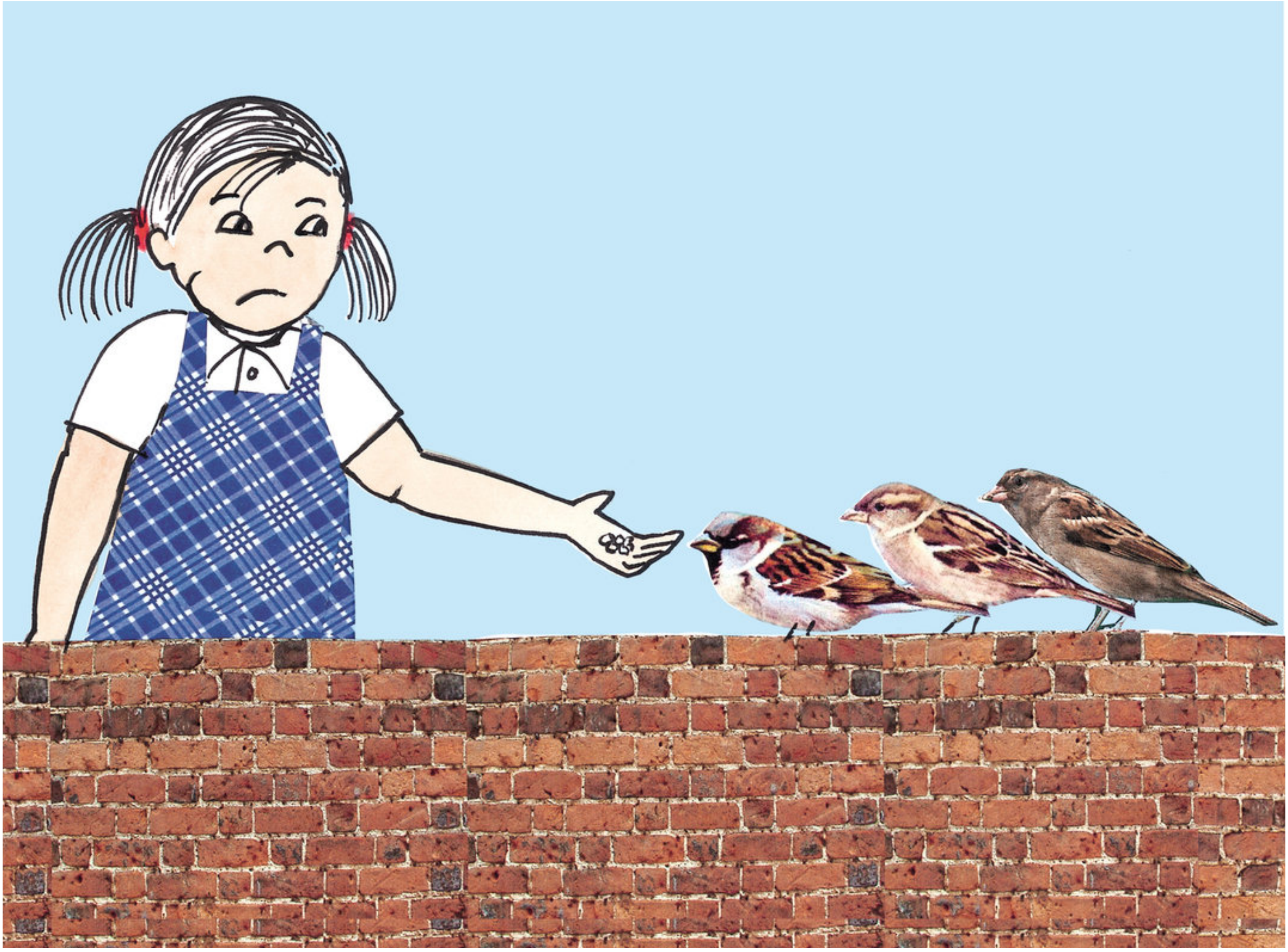
“Of course, one cannot eat vegetables,” the crow agreed, “Here, I’ll give you something nice,” and it dropped a half-eaten mouse for Samira.

“Oh no! What a terrible thing! Keep your mouse for yourself,” screamed Samira and ran away to stand near the wall.



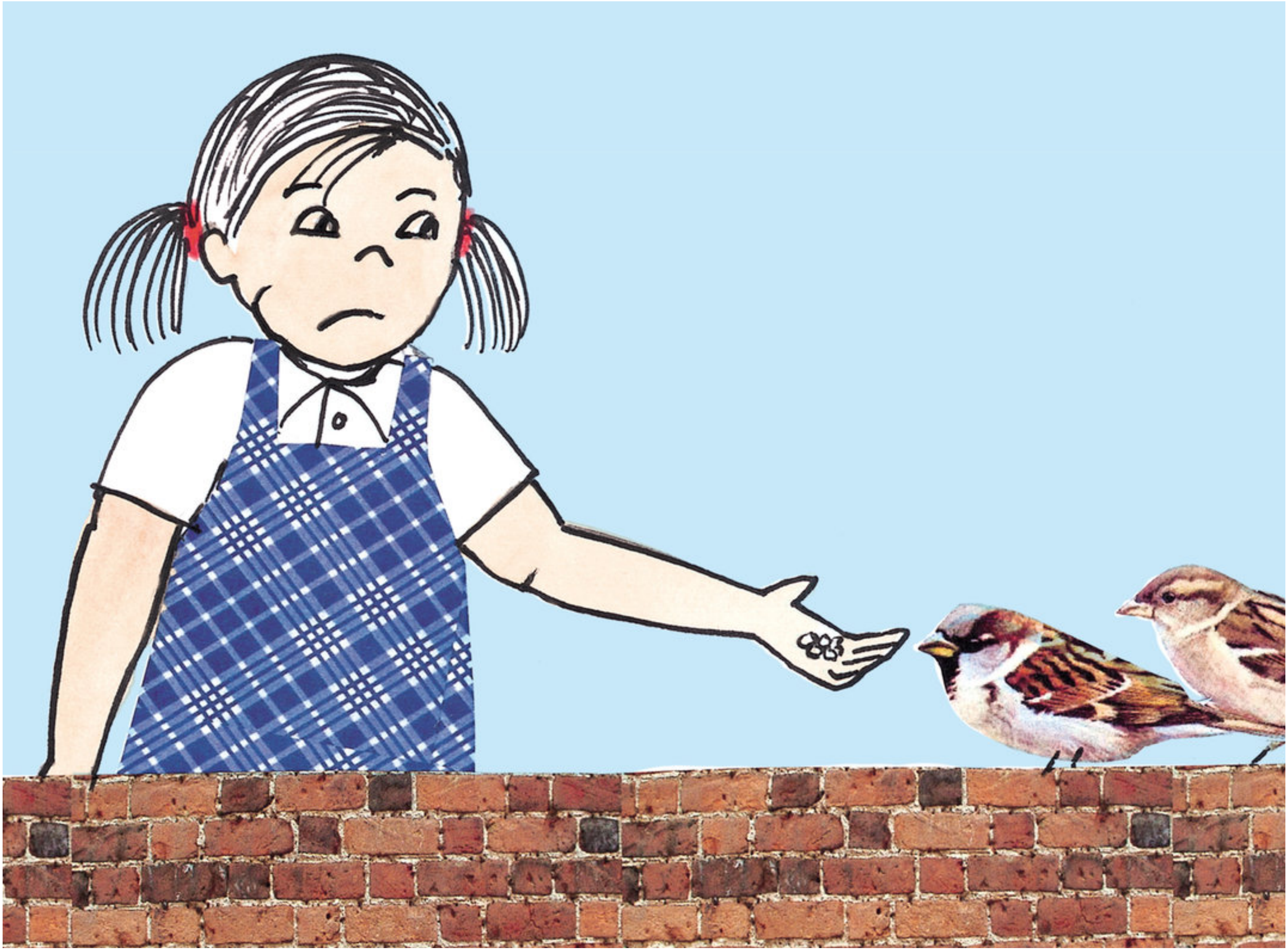
Some sparrows were chirruping on the ledge of the wall and called out, “Hello Samira! Why aren’t you eating your lunch like all the other children?”

Samira said, “I don’t like parathas. I don’t like vegetables. I don’t want any lunch.”



“Of course, one cannot eat vegetables,” the sparrows agreed. “Here are some crunchy grains of barley — they are really nutritious.”

Samira chewed one and made a face. “This is like eating pebbles. Even upma is better.”



A kind sparrow at once asked her, “Would you like some soft, juicy worms instead? Just a minute…”

Just before it flew off to get her a worm, Samira said, “Worms indeed. No, thank you! I would much rather eat noodles,” and ran to the gate of the school.



A cow was lazily chewing cud just outside and mooed when it saw Samira. “Hello!” it called, “Why aren’t you eating your lunch like all the other children?”

Samira said, “I don’t like parathas. I don’t like vegetables, especially brinjals. I don’t want any lunch.”



“Of course, cooked brinjals aren’t nice at all,” the cow agreed. “Let me bite off some of this grass for you — it is particularly sweet after the rains. You should eat it with the hibiscus bush next to you. You are so lucky. I wish I could get inside this gate.”



Samira was disgusted.

She said, “I don’t want to eat any grass. Nor any bushes. Even idlis would taste better than grass. And I am glad the gate is closed because the hibiscus has pretty flowers and I don’t want you to eat them.”



Samira ran back to her classroom and opened her lunch box.

'How nice my parathas and brinjal curry are,' she thought and quickly ate them up.

Story Attribution:

This story: Samira's Awful Lunch is written by Bharati Jagannathan . © Pratham Books , 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Other Credits:

This book has been published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books. Pratham Books is a not-for-profit organization that publishes books in multiple Indian languages to promote reading among children. www.prathambooks.org

Illustration Attributions:

Cover page: Girl opening her lunchbox in school, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: School bag and lunch box, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: Classroom during lunch time, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: Lunch box, water bottle and classroom board, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: Girl annoyed at ants on the wall, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: Girl saying no to ants crawling on the wall, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: Butterflies in a garden, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: Butterflies on a flower, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: Girl in a garden, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: Crow with a rat hanging off its beak, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: Girl watching crow about to eat a dead rat, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Illustration Attributions:

Page 12: Sparrows on a wall, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: Girl feeding sparrows on a wall, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: Girl reaching out to sparrows perched on a wall, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: Cow in the garden, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 16: Girl in the midst of flowers in a garden, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 17: Girl stopping cow from getting into a garden, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 18: Smiling girl opening her lunch box, by Preeti Krishnamurthy © Pratham Books, 2009. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Samira's Awful Lunch
(English)

Samira doesn't like the lunch her mother has packed in her tiffin box. All her animal friends feel bad for her and offer her their lunch. Read all about Samira's lunchtime adventure...

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.